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FCC, Office of the Secretary
Room 222, 1919 M Street
NW., Washington, D.C. 20554
Docket No. 95-176

RECEIVED

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MAR 24 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

March 21, 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

This letter is a formal filing concerning the Telecommunications Act. This letter comes from deaf and hard of hearing students, teachers, and other concerned members of W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, VA. We are constantly striving to provide captioned materials for deaf and hard of hearing students and staff. These materials are vital to the education of our students and enable them to compete on an equal footing with those in the hearing population. Currently, however, only about 10% of educational materials are closed-captioned. Deaf and hard of hearing people are not the only ones who benefit from captioning. Recent studies show that learning disabled students, English as a Second Language students, the elderly and young readers also benefit from captioning.

It is with this in mind that we would like to make the following suggestions regarding the requirements for captioning.

1. The shortest transition period possible. We understand the cost involved in captioning but we also feel that equal access is worth it.
2. Instructional programming as well as public, educational and governmental access programming should be a top priority.
3. 100% captioning should be required on library programming.
4. Minimum guidelines should be issued to ensure that captioning is of a quality that ensures full accessibility and usability for viewers.
5. An effective system should be developed for verifying the compliance of broadcasters.

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The use of media in the classroom continues to grow each year. Equal access is the only way for deaf and hard of hearing students to be successful and reach their potential. We support the strongest measures the FCC can issue to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

Raymond Clark

Laura Hofmann

Claudia Kukulski

Jane E. Lontano

Erika Alcar

Eddie Stott

Mark Jeffrey Emery, Jr.

Sam Scholtz

Jane Lee

Pete f

Wholly

Samuel Mitchell

Jonathan Wilson

Boyd's Choe

Eileen Lombardo

C. W. Loring

Christine Vapps

Adrenia Strong

Boethany Muehl

Carissa Collinsworth

Jeremy Barker

Janet W.

Michelle Dreibachman

Sharon Wootz

Franklin Wootz

Forest Thomas

Ronald R. Bridgely

Mike Rye

Betty Inselari

Shahid

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Sincerely,

Angel Koo

Allison Fox

Ashley Cohen

Brette Burnett

Emily G. Amanna

Kathleen McAdams

Ann C. Wick

Rodrigo Vizcarra

Deato Sexton

Robert D. Szymura

Tracy Thompson

Debbie Dileo

Joe Chonsemba

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Sincerely,

Tokuda D. Sisker
Claudia Moore
Constance C. Masper
Linda Sudduth
R. Brigantine
Julia Floyd
Kara Hunter
Kara Hunter
Ron Aylerod
M. Sue Kimbrell
Singer C. Goff
Kara Davis
Smitha Hanumantha
Hung Thai
Jonathan Roberts
Priso Altemar
Gret Trinkl

Brianna Cheliny
Jonathan Nassif
Meghan Marinano
Kara Jursair
Kara Jursair #19